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Urban District of Brentwood



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1956



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Urban District of Brentwood

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL: (as at 31.12.56).

Chairman: P. W. Duck, J.P. (1)

Vice-Chairman: A. V. Cave (1)

J. S. Alderton	(1)	P. W. Hammond	(1)
F. P. Anderson		A. F. Harper	(1)
C. Barber	(1)	Mrs. E. A. Hurst	
H. E. Brownnett		J. A. Isgrove	(1)
Mrs. M. P. E. Cater	(1)	T. W. Kenner	
J. W. Cole		G. A. D. McTurk	
Mrs. A. W. Dell	(2)	F. W. C. Salway	(3)
E. R. D. de Rougemont,		A. R. Scrivener	(1)
J.P.C.C.		J. M. Smith	(1)
J. Durston	(1)	Mrs. H. G. Sparrow	(1)
H. J. Farrow	(1)	H. P. Terry	
C. J. L. Fox		H. Van den Branden.	
G. C. Green		S. A. Wilson	

- (1) Member of Public Health Committee.
- (2) Chairman of Public Health Committee.
- (3) Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF (as at 31.12.56.)

Medical Officer of Health:

Stanley R. Warren, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

P. T. Shelton, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Public Health Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in
Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

First Additional Public Health Inspector:

Vacant.

(E. A. Sheppard, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health; Certificate in
Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works—
appointed 1.2.57).

Second Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. K. Blakeley, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector.

Clerk: Miss S. M. Wheelhouse.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report, including the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

I would like to take this opportunity of recording my personal sorrow and that of my department at the sudden death of Mr. F. G. Spencer, the late Chief Public Health Inspector. He and I had always worked in the closest harmony in the department. I am confident that these relations will continue with his successor, Mr. P. T. Shelton, to whom are due congratulations on his appointment.

I would like also to welcome back as First Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. E. A. Sheppard, who relinquished his appointment here earlier in the year as Second Additional Public Health Inspector. Finally, I would like to welcome the appointment of Mr. J. K. Blakeley as Second Additional Public Health Inspector and wish him a long and useful career.

It is to be noted that there is a tendency for the proportion of young people in Brentwood to be increased in spite of the general increase in the country in the proportion of the elderly. This is due to the increase in births amongst the inhabitants of the new local and overspill housing estates and this appears to be a tendency likely to continue and will probably greatly change the character of the area. The general health of the area has remained satisfactory.

During the year the Minister of Health revealed statistics issued by the Medical Research Council on the subject of tobacco smoking and lung cancer. It is likely that local campaigns will have to be undertaken on this subject in 1957. The results, if any, of such a campaign will, of course, be included in the Annual Report for 1957.

I would again like to thank members of the Health Committee and in particular the Chairman for the assistance and encouragement received by my department throughout the year, and for facilities granted to attend conferences and meetings.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

STANLEY R. WARREN.

SECTION A. **STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	18,166
Estimated (mid-year) Resident Population	(Registrar General's figures)				41,030
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	11,301
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£497,639
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,906

VITAL STATISTICS:

Live Births.		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	622	320	302
Illegitimate	...	17	8	9
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	15.57
Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	0.92
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...	14.32

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales:
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 1956:

England and Wales	Brentwood U.D.	
	1956	1955
15.6	14.32	15.32

Still Births.		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	11	6	5
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	16.49
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	23.0

Deaths.		Total	M.	F.
		482	213	269
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	11.75
Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	0.82
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...	9.64

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales:
Death Rate per 1,000 population for 1956:

England and Wales	Brentwood U.D.			
	1956	1955		
11.7	9.64	11.64		
Infant Mortality Rate:		1956	1955	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	18.29	24.26	
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	58.82	100.00

Causes of Death:	1955	1956
Malignant Diseases	80	66
Diseases of Heart and Circulation ...	204	198
Vascular lesions of Nervous System ...	51	68
Violence	18	13
Tuberculosis	3	4
Other infectious diseases	41	1
Other diseases	95	132
	<hr/> 492	<hr/> 482

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

National Health Service Act, 1946—Local Health Authority Services under Part III.

The following is a list of the Clinical Sessions provided by the South Essex Area Health Committee:

Brentwood Combined Treatment Centre:

Day	Clinic
Monday afternoon	Child Welfare—2 to 4.30 p.m.
Monday afternoon (1st)	Immunisation and vaccination.
Wednesday morning.	Minor Ailment—9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Thursday morning.	Opthalmic Clinic—9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Friday morning.	Ante-Natal and Women's Welfare—9 to 10.30 a.m.
Daily.	Dental Treatment.
Daily.	Chiropody—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extension to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. (Thursday 12.30 to 6.30 p.m. only).

Subsidiary Centres:

Hutton Child Welfare.	1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons.
Herongate Health Visitors Clinic.	4th Thursday afternoon.
Bentley Child Welfare.	1st Thursday afternoons.
Bentley Child Welfare (Health Visitors' Session)	3rd and 5th Thursday afternoons.

The new Essex County Council Clinic on the Three Arch Bridge Estate (not as stated in error in my last report the Thrift Park Estate) was rapidly nearing completion at the end of the year and it was expected to open in the early months of 1957.

Chiropody Statistics:

	Number of sessions	...	499
New Patients—			
	Adults	...	157
	Children	...	53
Attendances—			
	Adults	...	4,399
	Children	...	256

Ambulance Services:

Patients Conveyed	...	19,832
Total Mileage	...	111,329
Average Mile per Patient	...	5.9
Stretcher Cases	...	1,839
Emergency Cases	...	980

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are comparative tables of infectious diseases:

	1956	1955
Scarlet Fever	16	6
Pneumonia	26	22
Poliomyelitis	2	16
Whooping Cough	150	38
Measles	30	581
Jaundice	—	7
Food Poisoning	6	21
Dysentery	13	4
Totals	243	695

Poliomyelitis:

In the year under review, we were fortunate enough to have a very much diminished incidence of this disease in Brentwood with only two cases notified, one paralytic and one non-paralytic and no death. The usual precautions were taken and advice given. One of the children affected was an inmate of the Hutton Residential School, but fortunately no further cases occurred.

Measles:

There was the expected reduction in 1956, there being only 30 cases as against 581 in 1955. It is expected that the figure for 1957 will be high.

Whooping Cough:

The incidence of this disease was much higher than for some time, probably accentuated by the rather severe cold spell in the early months of the year.

Food Poisoning:

Isolated cases occurred in none of which was the source of infection discovered. This is quite commonly the case as contaminated food is mostly destroyed before it can be examined. Many patients are reported as suffering from food poisoning who are later in fact discovered to be suffering from Dysentery. The symptoms are very similar and it is not always possible to be certain until a thorough investigation has been made.

Dysentery:

There was a genuine increase in the number of notifications of Dysentery in the last quarter of the year. Sonne Dysentery, the prevailing type in Britain, is not now a disease of the summer months and is increasing annually in the country as a whole; partly a genuine increase and partly due to more accurate notifications. It would be true, however, to say that the real incidence of Dysentery is higher still as many attacks are treated as digestive upset and not recorded. It is now a relatively trivial complaint except in the very young and elderly, its chief menace is to closed communities such as Children's Homes and Day Nurseries, from which it is extremely difficult to eradicate. My Department has been in close co-operation with the London County Council and the Physician in charge of the Hutton Residential School and consultative visits have been paid by the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself to the premises. In the month of December, a large outbreak occurred in a school in the area of the Hornchurch U.D.C. This school is attended by many children living in West Horndon, but no notifications were received from the local Practitioners. Extensive investigations were made by the Public Health Inspectors and myself, and advice given. The epidemic subsided fairly quickly.

Tuberculosis:

The following are figures relating to Tuberculosis for 1956:

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	Children.	M.	F.	Children
Cases on register 1.1.56 ...	110	117	18	8	13	13
New notifications ...	7	1	0	1	0	0
Transfers in ...	16	10	1	0	1	0
Transfers out ...	12	8	4	0	1	0
Deaths ...	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lost sight of ...	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gone abroad ...	0	1	0	0	0	0
Recovered ...	0	2	0	0	4	0
Total removed from register	14	11	4	0	6	0
Cases on register 31.12.56	119	117	15	9	8	13

The decline in this disease fortunately continues, to the extent of approximately 10%. I am grateful to Dr. E. Woolf for these figures. This decline is reflected also in the figures for the Mass Miniature Radiography Survey carried out in Brentwood during the year. A summary of the findings is set out below.

	<i>No. X-rayed on miniature film</i>	<i>No. recalled for full-size film</i>	<i>No. recalled for investigation</i>	<i>No. referred to Chest Clinic</i>
Brentwood School	578	3	—	—
Ilford Ltd.	1,245	26	3	1
Warley Hospital—				
Patients	1,609	112	20	N.A.
Staff	140	5	—	—
Various firms	707	32	—	—
Public Session	1,544	59	2	2
Schoolchildren	678	6	—	—
Others	46	—	—	—
St. Faiths—				
Patients	226	19	4	N.A.
Staff	38	2	—	—
	<hr/> 6,811 <hr/>	<hr/> 264 <hr/>	<hr/> 29 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>

The total figure of 6,811 inclusive of the Schools, Hospitals and private firms, although larger than in the previous survey in 1954, is still a somewhat disappointing proportion of the total population. In the modern shape of Tuberculosis, the emphasis on prevention is shifted to the older age groups, particularly of the males. It would appear that this group is not attending this survey in sufficient numbers and it is desirable to use all means in our power to ensure that middle-aged and elderly people with a chronic cough or other symptom of the disease should seek medical advice at the earliest opportunity.

Tuberculosis After-Care Association:

The After-Care Association under the chairmanship of Councillor A. V. Cave, has continued its usual work throughout the year with the help of Health Visitors, voluntary helpers and others. As I suggested in my last report non-Tuberculosis cases have now been brought into the scope of this Committee.

Vaccination and Immunisation:

The following figures show the number of Brentwood children immunised or vaccinated in 1956. The figures for 1955 are also shown.

			1956	1955
Diphtheria Immunisation:				
	Primary	...	367	443
	Booster	...	784	1,080
Whooping Cough Immunisation:				
	Primary	...	145	302
	Booster	...	4	4
Vaccination against Smallpox:				
	Vaccinated	...	503	343
	Re-vaccinated	...	197	165
B.C.G. Vaccination:				
	Tuberculin Tested		180	122
	No. received B.C.G.		139	89

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was started in Brentwood for the first time in this year as in the rest of the country. The first session being held in May 1956. Following upon a number of talks on the subject which were given at various schools in the area and the other publicity means at our disposal, the response was quite encouraging, the number of children receiving vaccination being 387.

It is hoped that some reduction will be apparent in the notifications of poliomyelitis for 1957, but one cannot assume that there will necessarily be any material change for some years, following upon the experience of the diphtheria immunisation campaign in 1942. The work was performed entirely at the Brentwood Clinic and no General Practitioners took part. It is possible, however, that they may participate in future years.

With regard to the B.C.G. Vaccination, a routine has now been established whereby the 13 year age group in the County High School for Girls and in the Brentwood Secondary Modern School were offered B.C.G. vaccination. The other schools in the area with 13 year old children do not come within the scope of the Local Authority Health Services and no routine B.C.G. vaccination is carried out.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH DUTIES

Health Education:

A Clean Food Campaign was held in Brentwood during the month of May which included two discussion groups respectively for the general public and food handlers, at which the local voluntary bodies were invited to participate. These were well attended and great interest was shown. Publicity was given in the local press and an exhibition was displayed in the premises of the Electricity Showrooms in the High Street, with the kind co-operation of the Essex County Council Health Education department. I would like to acknowledge the help of the County Medical Officer in this matter. This campaign was instituted principally with the object of stimulating an interest

Year	Population	Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality :	
						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
1951	30,380	421	16.20	304	9.00	23	34.20
1952	31,690	403	14.87	335	9.51	16	27.29
1953	33,410	448	13.53	455	13.61	14	20.09
1954	34,670	459	13.37	405	10.51	15	19.61
1955	38,040	577	15.32	492	11.64	23	24.26
1956	41,030	656	14.32	482	9.64	22	18.29

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Age Groups											TOTAL
	Under 1	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25—44	45—64	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever	—	1	5	7	3	—	—	—	—	16		
Pneumonia	—	1	1	2	2	1	7	8	4	26		
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2		
Whooping Cough	15	30	39	59	5	—	—	—	2	150		
Measles	2	5	4	13	5	1	—	—	—	30		
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	1	—	6		
Dysentery	—	3	2	5	1	—	2	—	—	13		
TOTALS	17	41	51	91	16	3	9	9	6	243		

locally in the great importance of this subject, particularly in view of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 which had recently come into operation. Food Hygiene is a matter which should be constantly in the public eye and the highest standards can only be maintained with the co-operation of every member of the public. It is particularly important that the customers in shops and eating places should themselves insist on these standards. Copies of simplified regulations are available at the Health Department.

National Assistance Act:

Following upon a compulsory removal under this Act in the previous year, I have to report that the patient was discharged.

Sewerage and Sewerage Disposal.

The rapid growth of the population of the district in recent years has rendered the local sewage disposal facilities inadequate and enlargements of the existing works and new works have been made necessary. The Council has a large programme of extensions to Shenfield and Hutton disposal works and enlargement of trunk sewers. Approval for this has been applied for to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. If this is obtained, it is expected that the necessary work will begin in the latter part of 1957.

A small pumping station was completed at Edwards Farm Estate, Wash Road, to accommodate the private developement in that area. In the case of other schemes it has not been possible to proceed owing to the restriction on capital expenditure.

SECTION B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Inspection of Area.

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Re-Inspections</i>
Housing Act 1936, Sec. 11		
(Demolition or Closure) ...	10	58
Housing Act 1936, Sec. 12		
(Closure of part of house) ...	—	2
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1953 ...	—	7
H.R.R. Act, 1954—Improvement Grants	74	168

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Re-Inspections</i>
Housing Act 1936, Sec. 9		
(Repair of housing defects) ...	12	251
Public Health Act 1936		
(Remedy of Housing defects)	106	671
Housing Act 1936		
(overcrowding provisions) ...	4	—
Public Health Act (General)	108	47
Infectious disease	34	21
T.B. (After Care)	17	—
Food Poisoning Investigation ...	1	7
Verminous premises	4	21
Dirty Premises	3	2
Water supplies	12	33
Drainage and Sewerage	95	189
Cesspools and Pail Closets ...	17	14
Ponds, ditches, etc.	61	51
Keeping of swine, fowl, etc. ...	14	25
Accumulation of Refuse	10	—
Refuse Tips	6	2
Rats and Mice (General)	82	122
Rats and Mice (Sewer baiting)	2	—
Factories (Power)	16	1
Factories (Non-Power)	4	7
Outworkers	3	—
Shops Act	6	—
Massage Establishments	1	—
Pet Shops	2	3
Moveable Dwellings	38	87
Swimming Bath Visits	3	—
Swimming Bath Samples	9	—
Miscellaneous Visits	248	1
Miscellaneous Interviews	56	—
Council Houses	7	5
	<hr/> 1,065	<hr/> 1,795
Number of Complaints received ... ..	...	292

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT

(1) Number of Butchers' Shops	22
(2) Number of Bakers' Shops only	5
(3) Number of Bakers Shops with bakehouses attached ...	4
(4) Number of Bakehouses only	5
(5) Number of Grocers' Shops	83

(6) Number of Greengrocers' Shops	...	...	...	22
(7) Number of Fish Shops (wet, and fried)	...	...	...	16
(8) Number of Dairies	...	...	...	9
(9) Number of Milk Shops and Grocers	...	...	...	17
(10) Number of Pasteurising Establishments	...	...	...	1
(11) Number of Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	47
(12) Number of Public Houses supplying meals	...	...	...	26
(13) Number of School Canteens	...	...	...	15
(14) Number of Factory Canteens	...	...	...	9
(15) Number of premises registered for sale of Ice-Cream	...	...	...	98
(16) Number of Public Houses	...	...	...	50
2. (a) Number of premises registered under Essex County Council Act for sale of Ice-Cream	...	...	...	98
(b) Number of Dairymen registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	26
(c) Number of registered Bakehouses	...	...	...	9
3. Number of inspections of registered Food premises:—				
(1) Bakehouses	...	...	...	6
(2) Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	28
(3) Ice-Cream premises	...	...	...	84
4. All condemned food, other than meat, continues to be despatched to the Council's Refuse Tip under the supervision of the Public Health Department. Meat condemned at the two Slaughterhouses at present operating in the district, was generally collected by recognised merchants after being stained green to prevent misuse.				

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955/56

A considerable amount of time was devoted to inspections under the above regulations. With the small staff available, it was not possible during the year to complete the inspections required, but work under this heading continues and generally speaking there has been good co-operation from the proprietors of food premises.

Food Inspection. Number of visits made:

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	185
Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	13
Meat Shops	...	...	...	26
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	3
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	92
Cafes, etc.	...	...	...	97
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	84
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	28

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Canteens (School)	...	...	...	...	14
Canteens (Factory)	...	...	...	...	9
Canteens (Institutional)	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	22
					<hr/> 583 visits <hr/>

Food Sampling:

Samples of Milk	...	...	...	...	56
Samples of Water	...	...	...	...	7
Samples of Ice-Cream and Fruit lollies	...	...	...	...	54
					<hr/> 117 <hr/>

Milk Supply:

There is now only one dairy in the district which pasteurises milk; the remaining supplies are obtained by dairymen from establishments outside the area. The milk is pasteurised and bottled and supplied direct to the dairymen. For the purposes of this report, all premises where the primary business is the storage and sale of milk are treated as Dairies.

The following licences to retail designated milks were issued during the year:—

- 11 Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Pasteurised.
- 14 Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Sterilised.
- 4 Supplementary Licences to sell milk as Pasteurised.
- 5 Supplementary Licences to sell milk as Sterilised.
- 12 Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Tuberculin tested.
- 3 Supplementary Licences to sell milk as Tuberculin tested.

During the year 56 samples of milk were obtained and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories at 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., for bacteriological examination.

This service is arranged through the Essex County Council Laboratory Service and the results were as follows:—

Pasteurised Milk:

No. of samples taken	...	...	37
No. of samples satisfactory	...	...	37

Sterilised Milk:

No. of samples taken	...	...	6
No. of samples satisfactory	...	...	6

Tuberculin Tested Milk:

No. of samples taken	...	...	9
No. of samples satisfactory	...	...	9

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)

No. of samples taken	...	...	4
No. of samples satisfactory	...	...	4

Ice Cream Supplies:

During the year 51 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination; 3 samples of Fruit Lolly were also sent. The results are given below and this showed that a high standard was being maintained.

Grade I.	Grade II.	Grade III.	Grade IV.
50	1	—	—

The reports on the samples of Fruit Lolly showed they were satisfactory.

The bulk of the supplies of Ice Cream consumed in the district comes from the large manufacturing companies and the standard generally maintained is very high. No real difficulty has been experienced in the application of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947—52.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Total amount of meat and other foods condemned:—

Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
1	1	1	7

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed	... 290	Nil	51	355	215	Nil
Number inspected	... 290	Nil	51	355	215	Nil

All diseases except

Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:

Whole carcass condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---	---	-----

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	48	Nil	Nil	28	4	Nil
---	----	-----	-----	----	---	-----

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	... 16.55	Nil	Nil	8.17	2.33	Nil
--	-----------	-----	-----	------	------	-----

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3.79	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.47	Nil
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Slaughterhouses:

There are five slaughterhouses licenced to slaughter in the area and during the year only two of these were used. In both cases supplies were for their own shops only.

There still seems to be little demand by other butchers for slaughtering facilities and it would appear that owing to the district's proximity to London, the requirements of the trade can be readily met by wholesale suppliers.

As shown on the above chart the class of animals slaughtered has been good and the incidence of animals affected with Tuberculosis remains low.

WATER SUPPLIES

The main bulk of the supply is afforded by the South Essex Waterworks Company whilst the Southend Water Company are responsible for the supply to a small part of the district. Regular samples were taken of both Companies' waters during the year and these were all very satisfactory. There are now very few properties in the area which are not connected to Companies' mains.

SWIMMING POOLS

Council Open Air Swimming Bath.

The summer of 1956 was a very wet one and consequently the open air bath was not used to the same extent as it would have been in a finer summer. Nevertheless regular samples were taken and submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination. The results in all cases were found to be satisfactory.

School Baths:

Samples were also taken regularly from the three baths attached to schools in the area and in all cases the reports were satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 RAT AND MICE INFESTATION

Once again a considerable amount of work was necessary under the above heading but no evidence of any major infestation was found. There are almost invariably a few complaints of rat infestation when new building operations are commenced. These are generally dealt with by advising the contractors concerned.

The Council's sewers throughout the district were treated and the results of the work appeared to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections:

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Notices Served</i>	<i>Number of Notices Complied</i>
Factories (Power) ...	17	1	1
Factories (Non-Power)	11	—	—

2. Defects Found:

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Lack of Cleanliness	Nil	Nil
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	3	1
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	3	3

3. Outworkers:

Number of Outworkers	...	...	...	24
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	3

HOUSING

Housing Acts—Improvement Grants:

During the year the Council continued to accept applications for grants in respect of improvements to properties as provided for in the Acts. Generally speaking, the scheme worked well, but it was found that the vast majority of applications were in respect of owner/occupied properties and very few property owners in the district appear to use the scheme for the benefit of tenant/occupied houses.

HOUSING GENERALLY

Housing matters generally continued to take up a great deal of time in the department. During the year under review, a serious attempt was made to effect some progress to implement the Council's slum clearance proposals, but an ever present problem is the small number of houses available at rents which are economically suitable for the needs of tenants re-housed from small cottage property. Close liaison is maintained between the Housing and Public Health Departments and whenever the displacement of tenants becomes inevitable, every effort is made to house them according to their particular needs.

Whilst the problem of slum clearance in the district is not a big one compared with some of the larger authorities, a considerable part of the main town is composed of old type property and a small number of these every year will probably continue to require action by way of closure or demolition. It is hoped, however, that the Rent Act 1957 will encourage owners to maintain this type of property in better general repair.

Statistics for the year are as follows:—

HOUSING

Clearance Areas.

No clearance orders were made or areas dealt with during the year.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during year.

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	132
(b) Number of inspections made for the purposes ...	1,097

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	64
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

3(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10
2. Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

3(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 1 |
| 2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 1 |

3(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

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| 1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 8 |
| 2. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 4 |

3(d) Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

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|--|---|
| 1. Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 9 |
| 2. Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 1 |

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